

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM: PBSWIERS
APPROVED BY C: MNIMETZ
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S/S-O:SRPVALERGA

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TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T STATE 038506

EXDIS MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GR

SUBJECT: GREECE-NATO RELATIONSHIP -- ALEXANDRAKIS CALL
ON NIMETZ

REFS: (A) STATE 32867, DTG 080209Z FEB 78
(B) STATE 27359, DTG 012348Z FEB 78

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON DEPARTMENT
COUNSELOR NIMETZ FEBRUARY 9 TO DISCUSS GREECE-NATO
RELATIONSHIP FOLLOWING RECENT VANCE-KARAMANLIS EXCHANGE
(REFTELS). MAIN POINT TO COME OUT OF CONVERSATION WAS
SECRET

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ALEXANDRAKIS HINT THAT MAY 30-31 NATO SUMMIT SHOULD
BE TARGET DATE FOR GREEK REINTEGRATION.

2. NIMETZ TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS THAT THE U.S., BOTH IN
WASHINGTON AND BRUSSELS, HAS BEEN THINKING EXTENSIVELY
CONCERNING THE MILITARY SIDE OF GREEK REINTEGRATION
IN NATO, AS REQUESTED BY SECRETARY VANCE FOLLOWING HIS
MEETING WITH GREEK PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS. NIMETZ
SAID THAT WE, AS YET, HAD NO CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS
BUT OUR PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT THERE ARE TWO LEVELS

IN THE PROCESS -- THE POLITICAL AND THE MILITARY-
TECHNICAL. HE FELT THAT GREECE WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN

FULLY IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT
ON BOTH COUNTS. NIMETZ WAS CONFIDENT THAT KARAMANLIS
WOULD BE ABLE TO PERSUADE THE GREEKS THAT THEIR INTEREST
WOULD BE FULLY PROTECTED BY NATO MEMBERSHIP; IN THE
U.S. VIEW THE ALLIANCE WAS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL
ITS MEMBERS.

3. NIMETZ FELT THAT MOST ISSUES SHOULD BE REFERENCED
TO THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL LEVEL AND THAT THE PROPER
FOCUS OF THE TALKS BELONGED IN BRUSSELS. ALEXANDRAKIS
COMMENTED THAT THE GREEKS THEMSELVES PREFERRED THE
MILITARY-TECHNICAL LEVEL WHERE PROCESS COULD BE
EXPEDITED. NIMETZ

SAID WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS HOW ONE CHARACTERIZED
POLITICAL ASPECTS: THE SAME ISSUE COULD BE SEEN
AS POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, DEPENDING UPON THE APPROACH.
NIMETZ FELT THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE
TO MANAGE THAT QUESTION. NIMETZ ALSO NOTED THAT
DECISIONS ON THESE ISSUES WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN
SECRET

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BY ALL ALLIES IN BRUSSELS BUT HE BELIEVED ALLIES
FELT THAT THE TIME WAS RIGHT TO MOVE. ALEXANDRAKIS
AGREED CITING IMPRESSION WHICH KARAMANLIS HAS RECEIVED
ON HIS TRIP IN EUROPE.

4. IN REFERRING TO KARAMANLIS' MENTION OF THE SUMMER
AS TARGET DATE FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE GREEK-NATO
ISSUE, ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ATTENTION TO THE WASHINGTON-
NATO SUMMIT OF MAY 30-31. HE ALSO WARNED THAT ANY
TALK OF LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO ON THE TURKS - AS
RECENTLY REPORTED IN THE PRESS - WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS
ADVERSE EFFECT ON POSSIBILITIES FOR PROGRESS, ESPECIALLY
THE COMING ECEVIT - KARAMANLIS MEETING.

VANCE

SECRET

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